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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
3 -----x

4 NATIONAL COALITION ON BLACK
5 CIVIC PARTICIPATION, et al.,

6 Plaintiffs,

7 v.

8 20 CV 8668 (VM)
9 Telephone Conference

10 JACOB WOHL, et al.,

11 Defendants.

12 -----x
13 New York, N.Y.
14 October 26, 2020
15 9:00 a.m.

16 Before:

17 HON. VICTOR MARRERO,

18 District Judge

19 APPEARANCES

20 ORRICK HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE LLP
21 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

22 BY: RACHELLE MARIE NAVARRO

23 LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS
24 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

25 BY: JOHN LIBBY

JACOB WOHL, Pro Se Defendant

JACK BURKMAN, Pro Se Defendant

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1 (The Court and all parties appearing telephonically)

2 THE COURT: Good morning. This is Judge Victor
3 Marrero.

4 This is a proceeding in the matter of National
5 Coalition on Black Civic Participation and others against Wohl
6 and others. It's Docket No. 20 CV 8668.

7 Do we have a reporter on the line?

8 (Pause)

9 THE COURT: The Court scheduled this proceeding on the
10 filing by plaintiffs of this action seeking a temporary
11 restraining order and permanent injunction prohibiting the
12 defendants from engaging in telephone communications designed
13 to intimidate voters from participating in the presidential
14 election scheduled next week.

15 Would counsel please enter your appearances for the
16 record.

17 MS. NAVARRO: Good morning, your Honor. This is
18 Rachelle Navarro, of Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe. And also
19 on the phone for the plaintiff, you have Mr. John Libby, of the
20 Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights.

21 MR. LIBBY: Good morning, your Honor. John Libby
22 here.

23 THE COURT: Good morning. Thank you.

24 MR. BURKMAN: Your Honor, this is Jack Burkman.
25 Unfortunately, we have not yet been able to secure counsel. We

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1 did yesterday, and counsel will be available tomorrow. We only
2 had two days, so I am just here speaking for myself pro se this
3 morning. We were served with this lawsuit last week, and we
4 tried to get counsel as fast as we could. Thank you.

5 MR. WOHL: This is Jacob Wohl here. I would basically
6 second everything that Jack just brought up.

7 THE COURT: Mr. Burkman and Mr. Wohl, can you indicate
8 what efforts you made to seek counsel and any particular
9 prospect that counsel would be available?

10 MR. BURKMAN: Yes, your Honor. We have secured
11 counsel by the name of David Schwartz. I believe we were
12 served with this lawsuit Thursday. I can't remember exactly.
13 We rushed as fast as we could to get a lawyer, and we have
14 secured him as of yesterday, and he will be available on the
15 case literally within 24 hours or so. We moved as fast as we
16 could.

17 THE COURT: All right. I thank you.

18 Can you give me some particulars about who Mr. David
19 Schwartz is?

20 MR. BURKMAN: He is a litigator, he is a civil
21 litigator in New York City, I think a fairly well-known civil
22 litigator in New York City, and we have retained him.

23 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

24 In light of that, we're going to proceed since we have
25 a record in the hearing. The transcript will be available to

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1 the defendants and Mr. Schwartz, so let us proceed in the
2 meantime.

3 I will give the plaintiffs a minute initially to make
4 their case, and I will give the defendants each an equal amount
5 of time to present their case pro se, and I will give them an
6 opportunity to supplement whatever they indicate now by
7 submission by Mr. Schwartz not later than close of business
8 tomorrow.

9 All right, Ms. Navarro.

10 MS. NAVARRO: Thank you, your Honor. And just as a
11 matter to clarify the record, defendants, Mr. Burkman and
12 Mr. Wohl, were served on Wednesday of last week, not Thursday.

13 Your Honor, first, we want to thank you on behalf of
14 the plaintiffs, many of which are on the phone. We want to
15 thank you for holding a prompt hearing on this issue. We are
16 here today asking this court for your help. We're here asking
17 you to protect what the Supreme Court has called the most
18 precious right, the right to vote, free of intimidation and
19 free of interference.

20 In this case, the defendants disseminated a robocall
21 to over 85,000 people. This robocall contained three blatant
22 lies designed to dissuade people from using mail-in voting.
23 These three lies are that the police will use the voters'
24 identifying information to execute outstanding police warrants,
25 that credit cards will use the information to collect on

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1 outstanding debts, and that the CDC will use the information to
2 pursue forced vaccinations.

3 Defendants have targeted these robocalls to areas with
4 high populations of black residents. And it's important, your
5 Honor, that the lies that are included in the robocalls feed on
6 very real fears that exist in the black community. The
7 robocall is intended to intimidate voters, and, indeed, it has
8 intimidated voters, and it's also caused organizations, like
9 Plaintiff National Coalition, to divert resources in order to
10 respond.

11 Your Honor, we did our best to lay out our arguments
12 in the papers, and I don't want to rehash them for you, but we
13 do think there are three very important points that must be
14 emphasized.

15 The first, your Honor, is that the defendants'
16 behavior here is the most offensive kind. Not only does the
17 robocall contain blatant lies about mail-in voting that stir up
18 racist tropes, but the defendants are sending this robocall at
19 a moment when the country is navigating the worst and most
20 deadly pandemic it has seen in over a hundred years.

21 So what does that mean tactically? It means that if
22 voters are intimidated out of voting by mail because of this
23 robocall, they either have to vote in person, potentially
24 exposing themselves to COVID-19, or not vote at all.

25 Second, the intimidating effect of these robocalls is

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1 not just conjecture. The effect is very real. And in
2 considering this motion, I ask the Court to remember our
3 plaintiffs. Let's take plaintiffs, Mary Winter and James
4 Steinberg, for example. As Ms. Winter and Mr. Steinberg laid
5 out in their declaration, they live in a county where COVID-19
6 cases have been on the rise. And, as such, in an effort to
7 protect themselves and their loved ones, they have always said
8 that they were going to vote by mail. But then they received
9 this call, this hateful call. And even though both Ms. Winter
10 and Mr. Steinberg, they know this robocall is a hateful lie,
11 they still found this robocall to be so intimidating, that it
12 has completely undermined their confidence in mail-in voting,
13 and now they will be voting in person.

14 This is the effect that the robocalls have had on
15 people who know it's a lie, so we can just imagine the effect
16 the robocall will have on all these other recipients of the
17 robocalls who don't realize that.

18 Real harm has also been caused to organizations like
19 Plaintiff National Coalition on Black Civic Participation.
20 This organization, an organization whose resources are already
21 stretched and who are serving underrepresented communities,
22 they were forced to divert these resources from the regular
23 mission to respond and counter these deceptive robocalls. This
24 injury is not conjecture, it is real.

25 Third, and lastly, your Honor, it is almost certain

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1 that if defendants are not enjoined, they will continue to
2 engage in voter intimidation. Defendants have a long history
3 of perpetrating fraudulent schemes, and these fraudulent
4 schemes are designed to disrupt elections. We laid out in our
5 papers the long history the defendants have.

6 You've read the examples, your Honor. Over the last
7 couple of years, they have encouraged or paid multiple
8 individuals to falsely allege sexual assault against various
9 different public figures. Just a few months ago, they went on
10 Craigslist and hired actors to play FBI agents to stage a raid
11 on Mr. Burkman's house, and then alleged that the government
12 was retaliating against them.

13 The defendants are fraudsters, your Honor. Frankly,
14 they have made being a fraudster their full-time job these last
15 couple of years. And this behavior, this behavior of
16 perpetrating fraudulent schemes, is consistent with their
17 stated goal. Defendants have publicly admitted that they are
18 engaged in an all-out assault to disrupt the election. Last
19 year, when they sought funding for organization, they said they
20 planned to make stuff up in order to suppress the votes. And
21 as we get closer to the election, your Honor, the more relevant
22 and potentially more effective this strategy of disrupting the
23 election becomes. It must be stopped.

24 So, for these reasons and the reasons laid out in our
25 brief, we would ask the Court to enjoin the defendants from

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1 further violations of the law and also enjoin them from sending
2 out any other robocalls or other mass communications until
3 after the election.

4 Thank you, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, Ms. Navarro. A
6 couple of questions.

7 Do plaintiffs have a complete list and contact numbers
8 of the individuals who were targeted to receive the defendants'
9 robocalls?

10 MS. NAVARRO: Just for clarity, do we have a complete
11 list of the 85,000 recipients?

12 THE COURT: Yes.

13 MS. NAVARRO: We do not, your Honor. We do
14 understand, and as laid out in our papers, the Michigan A.G.'s,
15 Attorney General's, Office does have an active criminal
16 investigation. The robocalls were sent through a company
17 called Message Communications. Discovery is ongoing in that
18 case, and I imagine that the Michigan Attorney General's Office
19 probably does have that list from Message Communications.

20 THE COURT: Thank you.

21 With reference to the proceeding in Michigan, do
22 plaintiffs have any indication whether the defendants engaged
23 in any form of robocalls or other communication to plaintiffs
24 or other individuals like plaintiffs following the order by the
25 Michigan court in that case?

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1 MS. NAVARRO: This is Rachelle Navarro again.

2 Your Honor, I understand for you to be asking whether
3 we have reason to believe that defendants have perhaps violated
4 their bail conditions. One of the bail conditions of the
5 Michigan court was that defendants not engage in sending out
6 any other mass communications.

7 We have no direct evidence, your Honor. I will note
8 that I believe at the last proceeding, on October 15th, the
9 Court did raise concerns that they had received indications
10 that Defendant Wohl, Mr. Wohl, has potentially violated the
11 order, but they're still running down that evidence.

12 If I may, your Honor, also, we recognize that there is
13 this Michigan bail condition in place, but we do not believe
14 that the conditions imposed by the court as part of the bail
15 package in Michigan are sufficient to protect the voters, and
16 we believe this for a couple of reasons.

17 First, your Honor, there's no guarantee that the bail
18 condition ordering Mr. Burkman or Mr. Wohl not to engage in
19 further mass communications will stay in place. Bail
20 conditions do change, and plaintiffs and other voters have no
21 control over this. And the Michigan court also has
22 jurisdictional limits on enforcement, right? The Court has no
23 way to address substantive voter intimidation that occurred
24 outside of Michigan other than the relief available to it for
25 violations of bail. And the Michigan order does not reach the

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1 entity defendants -- does not reach the entity defendants
2 either. This TRO seeks to bind entity defendants and others
3 who may be working with Mr. Burkman and Mr. Wohl.

4 Also, your Honor, we only know of robocalls. We only
5 know of actions by Mr. Wohl and Mr. Burkman if they are
6 reported to us. All we know -- we do know -- and Mr. Wohl and
7 Mr. Burkman have stated -- that it is their goal to suppress the
8 vote, that it is their goal to disrupt the election. We know
9 that. We just don't know what other schemes they have embarked
10 on to do so because we only know what is reported to us.

11 The last thing I'll say, your Honor, on this point --
12 and I think this is important -- there are only nine days left
13 to the election. There is no reason to believe that defendants
14 won't continue to engage in their efforts to intimidate voters,
15 and for the reasons I just said, I think there's every reason
16 to believe that defendants will continue. They have a long
17 history of perpetrating fraud and have publicly repeatedly
18 stated their intentions to interfere with the election.

19 And I think plaintiffs here and, frankly, voters
20 everywhere, have a right to vote free of intimidation that is
21 caused by the defendants' fraudulent schemes.

22 THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much.

23 Let me then turn to the defendants and allow you an
24 opportunity to say anything you may wish to say on your behalf
25 in response to the plaintiffs' allegations.

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1 Mr. Burkman?

2 MR. BURKMAN: Thank you, your Honor.

3 Well, I would just say, first of all, we have no plans
4 to do any -- will not be doing any robocalls and, frankly, no
5 electioneering between now and Election Day. That much, I can
6 say for sure.

7 Secondly, we strongly believe that the bail order of
8 the Michigan judge is unconstitutional and that it violates the
9 First Amendment.

10 Thirdly, I would say, just even a cursory look at the
11 case law, I don't believe any federal judge has ever given an
12 order like the one that Ms. Navarro is requesting today in the
13 Southern District or anywhere in the United States. I think it
14 would be completely entirely without precedent.

15 Fourth, I would say, of course, we deny the
16 plaintiffs' claims. We believe they're baseless and without
17 any foundation. The plaintiff really hangs her claims on a
18 statute called the Ku Klux Klan Act, which is a statute from
19 150 years ago, which has never been used for this purpose or
20 any purpose even close to it.

21 Fifth, we would suggest that none of the plaintiffs
22 have any standing in this case.

23 So just to go down this long list, I mean, I don't
24 want to use the word absurd, and I don't want to succumb to
25 hyperbole, but I really think this is about as far-fetched as

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1 anything could possibly be. And I would ask -- if you would, I
2 would ask if Mr. Wohl has anything to add.

3 THE COURT: Let me --

4 MR. WOHL: Yes.

5 THE COURT: Before Mr. Wohl speaks, Mr. Burkman, I
6 will ask just a couple of questions, and I will ask the same
7 questions to Mr. Wohl.

8 MR. BURKMAN: Sure.

9 THE COURT: You deny and claim that the plaintiffs'
10 allegations have no basis. Did you or anyone that you are
11 affiliated with prepare the robocalls and cause them to be
12 sent?

13 MR. BURKMAN: Well, I would suggest -- the call in
14 question, your Honor, what I would suggest to you, first of
15 all, we believe it's true on its face.

16 Secondly, we believe --

17 THE COURT: Mr. Burkman, my question was not whether
18 they're true or false right now. My question was whether you,
19 acting alone or with anyone else, prepared that message and
20 caused it to be sent?

21 MR. BURKMAN: Oh, yes, your Honor, yes. That is our
22 call, yes, yes.

23 THE COURT: You don't deny that you caused this call
24 to be made and that you --

25 MR. BURKMAN: No.

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1 THE COURT: -- don't deny the content of it?

2 MR. BURKMAN: No, your Honor, we do not.

3 THE COURT: Thank you.

4 Second question: Do you have in your possession or
5 through an agent, like the entity that Ms. Navarro referred to
6 before, that has the contacts, the individuals to whom your
7 call was directed?

8 MR. BURKMAN: In my -- I do not have in my possession.
9 I do not know what that entity in California has in its
10 possession. Obviously, there are sensitivities. One of the
11 things we'll probably be asking for in this case is a stay
12 pending the resolution of the criminal case in Michigan. So I
13 don't know what they would have in California.

14 THE COURT: Well, when you prepared the robocall and
15 presumably had it transmitted to the entity in California, did
16 you have instructions to them as to what they should do with
17 the content of the robocall?

18 MR. BURKMAN: Yes, as to the content, yes, we did,
19 yes.

20 THE COURT: You told them what to do with it?

21 MR. BURKMAN: Well, in terms of what to do with it,
22 you mean what the content of the call would be?

23 THE COURT: No. What they should do with the content
24 of the call that you directed them to do something with. Did
25 you ask them to forward that robocall to anyone, to plaintiffs

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1 in particular?

2 MR. BURKMAN: To the plaintiffs? Well, a robocall
3 call is sent out, it's sent out to various zip codes in various
4 places. So it's a random -- any robocall is kind of a random
5 distribution to various people in various places.

6 THE COURT: That is my question. Did you give
7 instructions to that entity to send the --

8 MR. BURKMAN: Well, yes, of a kind, yes, in the way
9 that any robocall would have instructions, yes, correct. Yes.

10 THE COURT: All right.

11 And did you indicate to them any guidelines as to
12 where the call should be directed in particular, any
13 particular --

14 MR. BURKMAN: Your Honor, honestly, I would have to
15 consult -- it's been a while. I would have to consult notes
16 and such. To answer that fully, I'd have to consult.

17 THE COURT: All right.

18 MR. BURKMAN: I don't have all of that at the ready.

19 THE COURT: Thank you.

20 Let me, then, ask Mr. Wohl if he wishes to make any
21 statement?

22 MR. WOHL: Yes, your Honor.

23 I would second everything that Mr. Burkman just
24 pointed out. I would also say, and I would stress the point,
25 that there are no robocalls underway. There have not been any

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1 robocalls underway since the beginning of any sort of legal
2 proceedings in Michigan, and that what we believe that this is,
3 is not an effort to stop robocalls -- no one, least of all the
4 plaintiffs, and no one else has alleged that any robocalls have
5 taken place since the proceedings began in Michigan. So what
6 this represents is an effort not to stop robocalls, but to
7 stifle our constitutionally protected political speech.

8 And as to Ms. Navarro's mention of the bail conditions
9 in Michigan and the like, that was examined by the court.
10 There was another hearing since the one that she referenced,
11 and everything is all in good standing as it relates to bail
12 conditions in Michigan.

13 So that's what I would conclude with, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

15 Mr. Wohl, you indicated that you echo all of what
16 Mr. Burkman said. Does that include acknowledgment that you
17 participated in the preparation of the content of the message
18 and its communication to plaintiffs through the entity in
19 California?

20 MR. WOHL: Yes, your Honor, as to Mr. Burkman's
21 specific representation, yes, yes.

22 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

23 Now, let me ask both Mr. Burkman and Mr. Wohl whether
24 they have specific facts or evidence that the voter information
25 that voters submit if they mail in ballots is, in fact, being

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1 made available either to law enforcement agents, to credit card
2 companies, or to the CDC for the purpose of forced vaccination.
3 On what specific evidence or facts do you base your statement
4 that those representations are not false?

5 MR. WOHL: This is Mr. Wohl here, if I could begin.

6 No one has ever made the claim, until now, presumably,
7 that voter records, particularly in the State of Michigan, are
8 not part of the public record. Of course, they're part of the
9 public record. And, in fact, in the State of Michigan, not
10 just law enforcement, not just credit card companies, but, in
11 fact, any person can walk into the clerk's office, and without
12 even filling out a Freedom of Information Act request and, in
13 fact, a much simpler, much more abbreviated request, they can
14 obtain the information belonging to voters.

15 In the Michigan case in particular, law enforcement
16 proved this was true, as we've recently learned in discovery,
17 because Michigan law enforcement requested the voter records of
18 individuals. It did not require a subpoena, it did not require
19 a warrant because, of course, that is public information. So
20 there is no question as to whether or not voter records are
21 public information that can be accessed by law enforcement.

22 Further, I would say that there is an entire industry
23 of database providers, of service providers to law enforcement
24 agencies and debt collectors that specifically specialize in
25 scraping public databases, whether it be for library cards, for

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1 voter records, or any other form of public data. So that has
2 never been anything that has been held in contention. All that
3 Ms. Navarro would have to do is consult the Michigan statute or
4 consult statutes in other states to see that that is, in fact,
5 the case.

6 Now, as to law enforcement, I address that point by
7 pointing to the specific example in Michigan where the voter
8 records were pulled, and, clearly, that is something that could
9 happen more broadly should law enforcement decide they want to
10 do it.

11 But the most important thing to understand is that
12 those records will be scraped by database providers, and so if
13 your latest address was not in one of those databases, and you
14 register to vote, it will be at some point.

15 And as to the difference between voting by mail versus
16 voting in person, if you were to vote in person, many folks
17 that are in at-risk situations -- whether they have debt,
18 whether they have criminal warrants that are not felony
19 warrants and they're able to vote -- they will use oftentimes,
20 we learned, less specific addresses. Perhaps they'll use their
21 apartment building and not the unit number when they fill out
22 to register to vote. And, of course, there's no problem with
23 this because if you vote in person, you vote in person, but if
24 you're voting by mail, you have to use your specific address
25 right down to the unit number, otherwise you won't receive your

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1 ballot in the mail, and you won't vote.

2 So that addresses that point. Again, credit card
3 collectors use every piece of data at their disposal, including
4 data scraped from voter records.

5 And then as to the last point, the CDC, what I would
6 say is that there are now dozens of hours of congressional
7 testimony by public health officials at the federal level, at
8 the statehouse level before state legislatures, talking about
9 what they feel is the importance of mandatory vaccines,
10 particularly for COVID-19 as they become available, in order to
11 beat back the pandemic.

12 Mandatory vaccines were cited by Ms. Navarro as
13 something that is, for whatever reason she believes, especially
14 unpopular in the black community, but our research indicates
15 that mandatory vaccines are not just unpopular in the black
16 community, they're unpopular across all different kinds of
17 communities, all different races, all different religions,
18 creeds, colors, nationalities. The anti-vaccine movement is a
19 diverse movement, and, clearly, this call was not targeted to
20 black individuals -- there's no way to do that, to my
21 knowledge -- it is a call that is a public service
22 announcement, and every claim made in the call is dispositively
23 true.

24 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

25 Mr. Burkman, anything else you may wish to add to what

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1 Mr. Wohl just said?

2 MR. BURKMAN: I would just add, your Honor, I have
3 been in Washington a long time, and I would say that entities
4 like FBI, and DOJ, and DHS, they all have an enormous
5 history -- and not just these entities, but the contractor
6 community by which they're supported - the Lockheeds, the
7 General Dynamics, and Northrup, and all of that -- they all
8 have an enormous history of gathering data from anything they
9 possibly can, not just voting data, but immigration data, you
10 name it. And in terms of I believe that message said the CDC
11 is pushing for certain kinds of data -- I don't have it in
12 front of me -- the CDC is always pushing for any kind of data
13 it can get its hands on. So I've seen all of that for decades.

14 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

15 Ms. Navarro, let me turn back to you. Do you have
16 anything to add by way of reply?

17 MS. NAVARRO: Yes, your Honor. Thank you.

18 First, I'd like to take on Mr. Burkman's and
19 Mr. Wohl's last, if you can call them, statements regarding the
20 veracity of the robocall, and then my colleague, Mr. Libby,
21 will address First Amendment concerns.

22 Your Honor, I started this conversation by talking
23 about why the robocalls were so effective. What's shocking to
24 me is defendants are now using this legal proceeding, this
25 phone call, to continue to perpetrate hateful lies. Your

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1 Honor, let's be clear. The robocalls were directed at mail-in
2 voting. Mail-in voting is part of voter registration. That
3 information, the information of your name and your address,
4 that exists in the voter registry database. It doesn't exist
5 also as part of mail-in voting. The information already
6 exists.

7 So the distinction that defendants are trying to draw
8 between a voter registration and information that's part of
9 your mail-in ballot is completely disingenuous and, again, is
10 intended to play on the fears that exist in a time when this
11 country is dealing with the worst pandemic it has dealt with in
12 a hundred years. This behavior is unacceptable, and I find it
13 unacceptable that defendants are using your Honor's courtroom
14 to continue to perpetrate these lies.

15 Second, there is a difference between whether
16 information is publicly available and how it will be used. All
17 I heard defendants say was that information regarding voter
18 registration is publicly available. That has nothing to do
19 with how it will be used by the CDC, by law enforcement, by
20 credit card companies. There is zero evidence to support that.
21 And let's be clear, let's go back to what the robocall said.
22 This is an effort by defendants to discourage mail-in voting,
23 and thereby discourage voting. The robocall says, stay home,
24 stay safe, and beware of vote by mail. Stay home, they want
25 you to stay home. This is an all-out assault on voting.

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1 I'll now give the floor to my colleague, Mr. Libby.

2 MR. LIBBY: Yes. Good morning, your Honor. John
3 Libby.

4 With regard so defendants' statements concerning the
5 First Amendment and the scope of the TRO that we're seeking,
6 this is actually a very narrowly tailored proposed TRO that
7 we're asking the Court to enter.

8 The first paragraph simply admonishes the defendants
9 not to violate the law. Criminal speech is not protected by
10 the First Amendment.

11 The second paragraph is a very narrowly tailored time,
12 place, and manner restriction, which, by the way, they've
13 already admitted that they're not going to do, they've said
14 that they're not going to engage in robocalls between now and
15 the election. But we're asking the Court to enter the order
16 that we're seeking ordering the defendants not to make any
17 robocalls between now and Election Day or to cause others to
18 make robocalls between now and Election Day. And we're eight
19 days away, very limited time, place, and manner restrictions
20 protecting the integrity of the election, and such a
21 restriction and such an order, which they've admitted they
22 would abide by anyway, does not run afoul of the First
23 Amendment.

24 The other point I'd make, your Honor, is with regard
25 to Mr. Burkman's statement regarding the KKK Act. The KKK Act

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1 has been used repeatedly in voter intimidation cases – and we
2 cited the cases in our briefs – to prevent conspiracies
3 designed to intimidate voters, again to protect the integrity
4 of the vote and the integrity of the election. So it's not
5 simply an old 150-year-old law, it's active, it's used
6 repeatedly in cases of this type, and it's certainly
7 appropriate to be used here.

8 I'll submit, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

10 Let me ask a follow-up question to that, Mr. Libby.

11 By plaintiffs' estimate, the robocall message was sent
12 to 85,000 or more voters. The plaintiffs, the individual
13 plaintiffs in this litigation, presumably, are a very small
14 fraction of the people who received the call. Is that correct?

15 MR. LIBBY: That's correct, your Honor. That's our
16 current information.

17 THE COURT: So, out of the 85,000, is it conceivable
18 that a substantial number of those still may have been
19 influenced or might be influenced by the robocall into not
20 voting or not voting by mail?

21 MR. LIBBY: Well, your Honor, that would be
22 speculation on my part, but we certainly have what we believe
23 is a representative set of plaintiffs who have clearly
24 indicated in their declarations that they felt intimidated by
25 this call. As Ms. Navarro indicated in her opening remarks, at

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1 least two of those plaintiffs have had their voting plans
2 changed, and they're going to take their health and their lives
3 into risk, and they're going to go vote in person because of
4 this hateful robocall by these defendants.

5 THE COURT: So, again, at least in theory, a fair
6 number of people who received this call, absent any other
7 contrary message, could be influenced into not voting or not
8 voting by mail, again in theory?

9 MR. LIBBY: I think that would be a reasonable
10 inference, your Honor. But we don't have any concrete
11 information at this point absent further discovery in this case
12 or in the Michigan case.

13 THE COURT: All right. I thank you.

14 If there is nothing else, I'm going to close the
15 hearing and --

16 MR. WOHL: Just one last thing, your Honor. Mr. Wohl
17 here, just for the record, if you would allow?

18 THE COURT: Yes.

19 MR. WOHL: Just a quick note: I would be remiss not
20 to point out that when Ms. Navarro last spoke, she said the
21 call said to stay home. She is mistaken. The call did not say
22 the words "stay home" in it; it did not say "stay home" in any
23 way, shape, or form. So I just wanted to get that on the
24 record.

25 THE COURT: Well, isn't that a matter that could be

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1 factually verified? Is there a --

2 MR. WOHL: There's a transcript of the call, your
3 Honor. There is a tape, and the tape -- and nobody has ever
4 alleged the tape says stay home. That's not in the transcript
5 published by anyone. I think it's probably an innocent
6 mistake, but I wanted to get that on the record.

7 THE COURT: All right.

8 MR. WOHL: It does say "stay safe"; it does not say
9 stay home.

10 THE COURT: Let's come back to Ms. Navarro.

11 Where did the plaintiffs' version of the call come
12 from? And does it contain the language that you indicate that
13 says stay home?

14 MS. NAVARRO: Your Honor, the transcript of the call,
15 we have laid it out for your Honor on page 2 of the memorandum
16 of law, there's a transcript there, and it's also page 29 of
17 the complaint. And the very last line is: "Don't be finessed
18 into giving your private information to the man. Stay home,
19 safe, and beware of vote by mail."

20 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

21 Again, this is a question of fact dispute that should
22 be easily verifiable by looking into the transcript.

23 Coming back, I'm going to close the hearing at this
24 point. Mr. Burkman and Mr. Wohl, I will give you, through
25 Mr. Schwartz, an opportunity to supplement what you've said,

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1 present any other legal defense. I will ask that Mr. Schwartz
2 submit a notice of appearance today, and that he have until
3 tomorrow, not later than 3:00 p.m., to submit any further
4 material that he may wish to submit on your behalf.

5 MR. WOHL: Thank you, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much. Have a
7 good day.

8 MR. BURKMAN: Thank you, your Honor.

9 MS. NAVARRO: Thank you, your Honor.

10 * * *

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14 I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and
15 accurate transcript, to the best of my skill and ability, from
16 my stenographic notes.

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20 _____
21 Official Court Reporter
U.S. District Court
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